
Special Care Protocols: Behavioral Emergencies



Note Well: *When a person's behavior or actions indicate that a psychological problem might be present and danger to harm ones self or others might exist. Management of patients who present with a behavioral emergency, require that the pre-hospital care provider be able to assess the patient and situation for both medical and psychological needs. Providers must exercise extreme caution when dealing with these special needs patients; MPD and/or EPRD should be contacted to assist in obtaining proper care and treatment for these patients. Pre-hospital care providers must keep in mind that some medical and or trauma conditions may cause behavioral situations. A thorough assessment of these patients is necessary unless the provider's safety would be compromised.*



I. Observe for Elements of Dangerous Situations

1. Serious medical problems either coexisting with or causing behavioral problem.
2. Verbal abuse or violent behavior.
3. Definite or suspected suicide attempts.
4. Dangerous environment.

II. Special Considerations



1. **Take all threats of bodily harm and homicide seriously.**
2. Prehospital care providers should not place themselves in jeopardy or assume any police functions, especially when weapons or acts of violence are involved.
3. The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) should be summoned on all incidents involving patients exhibiting psychotic and/or violent behavior.

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II. Special Considerations (continued)

4. Determine if the patient has any medical or trauma related conditions.
5. Remain with patients at all times, personal safety permitting.
6. Do not argue or disagree with these patients.
7. Remain calm, objective and accepting.
8. Solicit help and information from relatives, friends and others known to the patient.
9. Move slowly, make no sudden moves in the presence of these patients.



III. Transport Decision



1. Transport these patients to the closest appropriate open medical facility for psychological and medical evaluation with a Metropolitan Police officer onboard.